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Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 12, No. 6 June, 2004 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 728-1261

LLP Tops 100,000!

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

In just the first four months of 2004 the Lambda Letters Project delivered over 100,000 letters and messages to elected officials in California. Compare this with the first four months of 2003, during which we delivered only 66,000 letters and messages. We are well ahead of last year's heady pace. It is highly likely that we will exceed 300,000 letters and messages by the end of this year.

Those letters and messages are effective. On February 12 Mark Leno introduced AB 1967 in the Assembly, allowing same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses in California. Despite over 1,200 other bills in the Assembly being assigned to committees and given dates for hearings and votes on their merits, AB 1967 lay dormant by early April. The Assembly leadership thought it too controversial. Lambda Letters swung into action. Within 10 days we delivered over 11,000 letters and messages urging that this bill be heard and voted on in a policy committee. The bill was finally heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the committee approved the bill by eight votes to three.

Unfortunately, on May 19 the Assembly Appropriations Committee decided to "hold" AB 1967 in committee. That means the bill is effectively dead. Still, the fact that we were able to force a hearing and vote in committee is a testament to our power to make legislators listen to us. Clearly we need to be larger and stronger to meet the needs of the community. I hope you will help that happen by sending donations to support the work we do and by telling your friends all about us. Please urge them to join Lambda Letters and use our services.

Introducing the Lambda Letters Foundation

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Recently a new organization was approved by the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board: the Lambda Letters Foundation (LLF). Independent of the Lambda Letters Project, this group provides educational services to the HIV/AIDS, LGBTI, people of color, and women's communities. LLF is funding the publication of the booklets on domestic partners and the rights of transgender people, which we described in our April newsletter. Further projects and goals for the foundation are yet to be determined. The board and officers of LLF are working on fleshing out the things that it will do.

For the past couple of years, Sacramento Progressive Communities Inc. generously assisted LLP in its educational activities. They established a 501(c)(3) group called the Friends of Lambda Letters, to which people could make tax-exempt contributions. The Friends then donated its funds to cover education-related expenses of LLP. Soon all remaining funds in the Friends of Lambda Letters account will be transferred to LLF. Mark Whisler of Sacramento is the guiding light of Sacramento Progressive Communities, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for the support he has provided to our work!

LLF is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Contributions to it may be tax-exempt to you. From now on, if you would like to make a tax-exempt contribution to our work, make your check payable to the Lambda Letters Foundation.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters and Messages Collected

April, 2004	51,030 letters & e-mails
In all of 2004	102,232 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

April, 2004	$4,817
In all of 2004	$16,900

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

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Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; and women. We do this by urging elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

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Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

Advertising Rates (per Issue)

Business-card sized ads (3½"×2") $10, quarter-page ads $30, third-page ads $33, half-page ads $45, full-page ads $75, full back-page ad $100. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

☐ Yes, I want to make a donation to help LLP continue its important work.
(Appreciated but not required.)

☐ $10 ☐ $20 ☐ $30 ☐ other $_____

Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?
If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.
The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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People of Color Issue

Oppose the CLEAR Act

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst

Please write to your member of the House of Representatives to stop a new attack on immigrants. Representative Charles Norwood (R–GA) has introduced HR 2671, the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Aiien Removal (CLEAR) Act. This bill, along with its companion bill in the Senate, S 1906, the Homeland Security Enhancement Act, introduced by Senator Jeff Sessions (R–AL), would require state and local police officers to enforce civil immigration laws under penalty of losing federal funds. These bills would also expand the scope of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database, which is routinely accessed by police to identify wanted criminals, to include individuals solely based upon their immigration status.

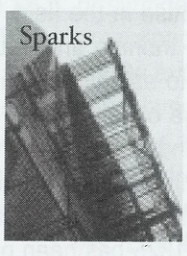
The CLEAR Act poses dangerous consequences for public safety, as does its companion bill. They would shift the burden of federal immigration law enforcement improperly to local police. Law enforcement agencies are already overextended. They already provide sufficient cooperation and assistance to federal authorities on immigration matters in the context of persons in custody for violations of state and local laws. These new bills, however, would require police to arrest and detain persons based upon suspected or alleged violations of civil immigration laws, thereby diverting essential state and local resources from enforcing criminal laws. These acts would also ensure the likelihood of civil rights abuses and wrongful arrests, with an increase in racial profiling.

Finally, these bills would also discourage immigrants from reporting crime or talking to police. Immigrant victims of domestic violence are often trapped in abusive situations for fear of deportation if they come forward.

Please write your member of the House of Representatives in opposition to the CLEAR Act.

What happens when women put pen to paper... brush to canvas... lens to scene?

Sparks



spark — n. 1. A fiery particle resulting from friction. 2. A flash of light. 3. A trace or suggestion. 4. A vital, animating or activating force.

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Support Safe Access to Medical Marijuana

By Jamie E. Shauvin, Legislative Analyst

In September 2003 the California State Legislature approved SB 420, regarding medical marijuana implementation. Introduced by Senator John Vasconcellos (D–San Jose), SB 420 was a compromise that considered much input from patients and reformers and was intended to clear up certain implementation issues surrounding Proposition 215 (HS11362.5) by formulating a voluntary system to protect medical patients from arrest.

The intention of SB 420 was to establish a safe harbor for people in need of medical marijuana who needed to cultivate or possess certain numbers of marijuana plants or a certain amount of harvested marijuana. Unfortunately, last-minute amendments to SB 420 established a maximum limit on the number of growing plants or amount of harvested marijuana that a patient could possess.

The problem with SB 420 lies with these limits. Patients who find themselves outside the limits may be criminally prosecuted. These limits apply not only to patients who chose to obtain an ID card in accordance with SB 420 but also to patients who qualify under the Compassionate Use Act of 1996. This was particularly inappropriate because the Compassionate Use Act does not impose such limits.

Senator Vasconcellos has therefore introduced SB 1494 to correct the language issue with SB 420. SB 1494 will create a "safe harbor" for patients with or without ID cards, who are covered by either the Compassionate Use Act or SB 420, to possess or cultivate amounts of medical marijuana that can be shown to address their medical conditions. SB 1494 will enable physicians and patients to have greater freedom to explore therapy unique to each individual patient. Seriously ill patients will not be subject to unjust criminal prosecution just because they seek to relieve their suffering.

SB 1494 has passed the Senate. In the Assembly it will go to the Assembly Public Safety Committee first and then to the Assembly Health Committee. We are asking you to support SB 1494 by writing to the Assembly Public Safety Committee members. Ask them to support SB 1494 when it comes before them in the near future.

Women's Issue

End Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

By Kathleen Watanabe, LLP Analyst

Sexual harassment in the United States remains an epidemic. Approximately 15,000 sexual harassment cases have been brought each year to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for the past 10 years. Studies also suggest that 40–70 percent of women have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace.

Despite increased awareness and laws, sexual harassment continues to persist in California. According to Assemblymember Sarah Reyes (D–Fresno), during the 2002–03 fiscal year, 4,231 sexual harassment cases were filed with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing—totaling 22 percent of all cases filed at the DFEH.

Sexual harassment negatively impacts both businesses and employees. A typical Fortune 500 corporation can expect to lose $10 million annually from absenteeism, lower productivity, increased healthcare costs, poor morale, and employee turnover as a result of sexual harassment. In addition, sexual harassment victims can recover compensatory damages beyond back pay, future pecuniary losses, emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, and punitive damages—and may do so in a jury trial.

Most importantly, the impact of sexual harassment can devastate a person's emotional health and well-being, disrupt relationships or families, and stunt careers. Victims often quit jobs and change career goals. Sexual harassment in the workplace often results in physical hardship, loss of income, isolation, change in self-perception, lack of trust, changes in social behavior, and potential sexual disorder.

Even though 97 percent of organizations now report adopting sexual harassment policies, the number of sexual harassment charges remains intolerably high. In an effort to curtail this epidemic, Assemblymember Reyes has authored AB 1825, which would require employers with 50 or more employees to provide at least two hours of sexual harassment training and education to all supervisory employees by January 1, 2006. Thereafter, this requirement would have to be met every two years.

The required training and education would include practical guidance regarding the federal and state statutory provisions concerning the prohibition against—and the prevention and correction of—sexual harassment, and the remedies available to victims of sexual harassment.

The training and education would also include practical examples aimed at instructing supervisors in the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation, and would be presented by trainers or educators with knowledge and expertise in the field.

The training and education requirement of AB 1825 is intended to establish a minimum threshold. It does not discourage or relieve any employer from providing further training and education to prevent and correct harassment and discrimination. Compliance with this bill would not insulate the employer from liability for sexual harassment.

AB 1825 has been passed by the Assembly and is now awaiting a vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please write to members of the committee and urge them to approve this bill. Every employee has the right to a workplace free from concern or fear of sexual harassment. A company's responsibility is to provide a harassment-free environment.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Intersex Issue

Eliminate Discrimination in the Workplace

By Teri Ford, Legislative Analyst

Every person is entitled to fair and just treatment at his or her job. AB 2900, introduced to the California State Assembly by John Laird (D–Santa Cruz), ensures equality within the workplace. AB 2900 creates uniformity in the language of California's labor and employment codes. This bill prohibits discrimination on the basis of a person's race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical and/or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, gender, age, or sexual orientation. It prevents job discrimination among all groups, especially among medical workers, public works employees, and the state militia.

This bill seeks to establish and maintain a policy of equal employment opportunity for all. It prevents questioning in relation to age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, etc. when considering an individual for a job appointment or promotion. If an employee accuses his or her employer of discrimination, AB 2900 also provides the employee with protection from retaliation by this employer. However, the bill does require that the employee furnish sufficient documentation to support claims of discrimination.

This bill is a protective umbrella for those seeking fairness and equal treatment in the workplace. It penalizes those who pelt others with abuse and ignorance as these harassed individuals struggle for recognition and advancement within their jobs. Sexual orientation, age, race, or other qualities will no longer be "occupational hazards."

Support equality in the workplace and support job opportunities. Please support AB 2900.

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June Legislative Update

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 1925 (Ray Haynes, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To require advance notice to parents, under certain circumstances, of sex or AIDS education to be given in a school and to notify parents that they can remove their children from this education by submitting a written request. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 2.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1957 (Dario Frommer, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To require the state to establish a Web site to display price comparisons of prescription drugs, including prices charged by licensed pharmacies in the state and Canadian pharmacies that provide mail-order service to the US that meet certification requirements established under the bill.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2125 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require that a diagnosis be written on any prescription written by a doctor or on any prescription medicine container unless the patient asks that it not be added.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 20. Hearing cancelled by the author. Bill is dead. **LLP Position:** Watch with concern. This measure could help senior citizens who may forget what a medicine is intended for but it may cause problems for people with socially unacceptable diseases as well.

AB 2871 (Patty Berg, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To make it easier for cities and counties to establish clean needle and syringe exchange programs.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 61 (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To urge the US Secretary of Health and Human Services to certify that permitting the importation of prescription drugs from Canada into the US poses no additional risk to the public's health and safety and, in fact, results in a significant reduction in the cost of prescription drugs to the American consumer. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1149 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To require the state to develop and disseminate information identifying pharmacies in Canada that meet recognized standards for the safe dispensing of dangerous drugs (prescriptions) to California residents. Also must publicize foreign suppliers that do not meet standards. Information should be posted on the Internet.
Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1159 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription under specified conditions, and to authorize a person to possess up to 10 hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired through an authorized source.
Status: Passed by the Senate. Not assigned to an Assembly Committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support. This would facilitate authorized clean-needle exchange programs around the state.

SB 1494 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To provide that a qualified person with a medical marijuana identification card, or any designated primary caregiver, may possess any amount of marijuana consistent with the medical needs of that qualified person with an identification card.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No Hearing date set yet.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/ Transgender/Intersex Issues

AB 1918 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)
Purpose: To allow a school employee, in a school district that is not subject to disability compensation laws, to take up to six weeks off with partial pay to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or domestic partner, or to bond with a new child.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not referred to a committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1967 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses in California. **Status:** Was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2044 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)
Purpose: To allow a credit for the amount paid or incurred by a taxpayer for long-term care or long-term care insurance for any family member of the taxpayer. **Status:** Dead. The bill missed the deadline for approval by a policy committee. **LLP Position:** Support if domestic partners are included in the definition of family.

AB 2208 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To require that domestic partners be treated equally to married couples by insurance companies with regard to benefits under all kinds of insurance policies regulated by the Department of Insurance.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2889 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To make employers responsible for the acts of nonemployees with respect to all forms of harassment (including harassment based on the LGBTI or HIV status of employees) in the workplace where the employer or its agents or supervisors knew, or should have known, of the conduct and failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.
Status: Approved by Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2900 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To amend nondiscrimination language in California's labor and employment codes to make the language uniform. The nondiscrimination language found in the Fair Employment and Housing Act will be used as the model. Sexual orientation, gender identity, and language protecting women and other minorities will be amended into many of these government codes.
Status: Approved by Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet **LLP Position:** Support.

AJR 60 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To approve an Assembly Joint Resolution urging Congress and President Bush to support the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. This act, now being considered in Congress, would allow US citizens to obtain permanent legal US residency for their domestic partners who are citizens of another country. **Status:** Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support. Currently straight couples can obtain the same result by marriage.

SB 1193 (Nell Soto, D–Ontario)
Purpose: To require the state to pay a $10,000 death benefit to the surviving spouse, or beneficiary designated by the service member, of any member of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, or Naval Militia who dies or is killed in the performance of state military duty.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1234 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To enact a uniform definition of "hate crime" and direct all state and local agencies to use it exclusively; encourage all law-enforcement agencies to adopt a formal hate-crime protocol; direct law-enforcement agencies to deliver expanded hate crimes training to their officers; and increase penalties for hate crimes.
Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 292 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To provide that a state or local governmental agency, or a public or private agency supported by state funding, shall not use any child, or permit any child to be used, as a translator or interpreter in any matter involving the business or function of that agency, except as specified. This would require each agency that receives state funding to have available for inspection an established procedure for providing competent translation services. **Status:** Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 858 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit public schools from using the word "Redskins" as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Referred to Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 9.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1796 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To provide that a convicted drug felon shall be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program. Those convicted of using drugs would be helped by this bill. Drug dealers would be excluded from its benefits.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. On the Assembly floor awaiting a final vote in that house. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1815 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To raise the income tax rate and the alternate minimum income tax rate on California's wealthiest citizens.
Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. But the author's

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office says the bill is not dead.
LLP Position: Support. This would reduce the pressure to make cuts to vital HIV/AIDS programs and other health and social service programs.

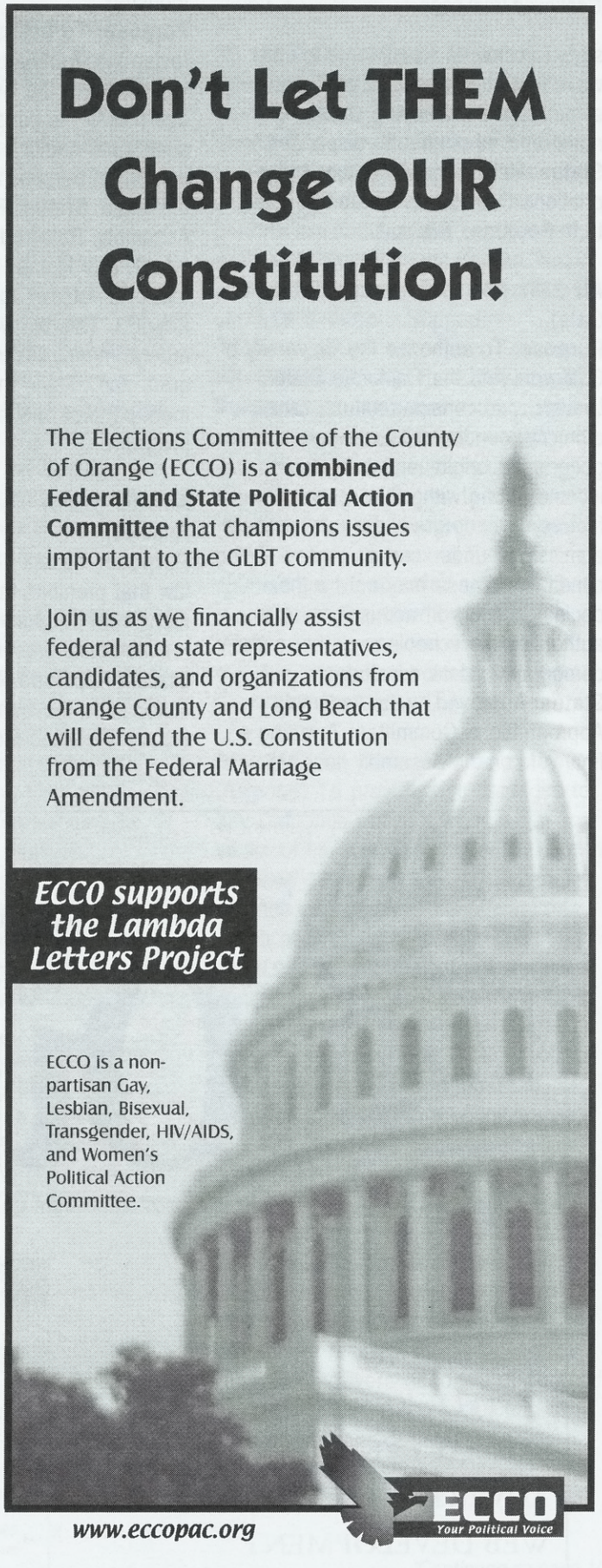
AB 1895 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To require that an attorney who specializes in immigration law, or a certified immigration specialist, be provided to a dependent child of the court who is not a citizen of the US and when the court has decided parental reunification is not an option. The bill would exclude counties that already have similar programs in place.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1963 (Simon Salinas, D–Salinas)
Purpose: To encourage the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers to provide better health outcomes for rural and underserved communities, particularly agricultural workers, and seek to incorporate the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers in the full range of state-funded health programs. (*Promotores de salud* are programs that utilize trained community members to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate outreach, education, and access to services.)
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly Floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2221 (John Campbell, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To overturn current law which requires that certain consumer contracts, which were negotiated in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean, be provided in written form in that language to the customer before the contract is signed.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Hearing cancelled by the author. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 2278 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To declare that California's community colleges don't get enough financial support and that funding for community colleges should be based on full-time enrollment, while the amount of state funding for community colleges should be based on the national average of state financial support for community colleges.
Status: Dead. Failed to meet the deadline for approval by a policy committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2324 (Judy Chan, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require many state programs to collect data, on a voluntary basis, regarding the race, ethnicity, and primary language of all participants. This would require the


Don't Let THEM Change OUR Constitution!
The Elections Committee of the County of Orange (ECCO) is a **combined Federal and State Political Action Committee** that champions issues important to the GLBT community.
Join us as we financially assist federal and state representatives, candidates, and organizations from Orange County and Long Beach that will defend the U.S. Constitution from the Federal Marriage Amendment.
ECCO supports the Lambda Letters Project
ECCO is a non-partisan Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, HIV/AIDS, and Women's Political Action Committee.
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ECCO
Your Political Voice

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

state to convene a task force to find ways that state agencies can help eliminate the underlying causes of racial and ethnic health disparities.
Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2387 (Marco Firebaugh, D–South Gate)
Purpose: To authorize the University of California and the California State University to consider culture, race, ethnicity, gender national origin, geographic origin, and household income, along with other relevant factors, in undergraduate and graduate admissions under certain limited conditions. These may not be the deciding factors in admissions. Also authorizes the schools to gather certain demographic data on students.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.

AJR 54 (Robert Pacheco, R–City of Industry)
Purpose: To petition Congress to revise the formula used to calculate the federal Medicaid assistance percentage (FMAP) to consider, in addition to a state's per-capita income, the total number of persons living in poverty in that state. **Status:** Passed by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a vote on June 2. **LLP Position:** Support. This bill would provide more federal money for the Medi-Cal program and reduce the need for enrollment caps or budget cuts to the program.

AJR 62 (Ridley Thomas, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To ask Congress to repeal a law that prohibits the federal government from bargaining over drug prices for Medicare prescription drugs.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 64 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To condemn hate crimes against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, Sikh-Americans, and other Americans and to urge police to prevent these crimes and to vigorously investigate and prosecute them.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 1.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 17 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.
Status: In the Assembly inactive file.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

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SB 921 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To declare the intent of the legislature to implement a single-payer, universal healthcare delivery system in California. **Status:** Currently in the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 22. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1144 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow the state to buy drugs from Canadian manufacturers, among others. Would require the state to seek federal permission to buy drugs in Canada. **Status:** Approved by the Senate Appropriations. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow undocumented immigrants, under certain circumstances, to obtain driver's licenses. Details of the bill wording are still being worked out. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1170 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To require the state to establish (on or before January 1, 2005) a list of maximum allowable costs that drug providers could charge the state for medicines used in the Medi-Cal program. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 15.
LLP Position: Support. The list would keep costs down and reduce pressure to limit enrollment in Medi-Cal.

SB 1188 (Wesley Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To provide grants to local governments that issue building permits for low-cost housing developments for farm workers.
Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1333 (Don Perata, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To authorize the state to reimburse a pharmacy that provides to a Medi-Cal beneficiary, or an AIDS Drug Assistance (ADAP) patient, a prescription drug that was purchased from a Canadian pharmacy.
Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1354 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To eliminate excessive tax credits being claimed by corporations in California to help solve the state's budget deficit without cutting vital services. **Status:** Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1452 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To prohibit the state from contracting with any individual or entity that employs persons or subcontractors outside the US.
Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Oppose unless contracts for medicines are exempted. This might prevent the state from cutting costs by buying medicines from Canada. That, in turn, might hurt public health programs.

SB 1499 (Kevin Murray, D–Culver City)
Purpose: To prohibit an employer from charging a fee for cashing an employee's payroll check, transporting an employee to a job site, or renting an employee the tools necessary to perform the duties of the employment.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Not assigned to an Assembly Committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1563 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To deem that a drug wholesaler or drug manufacturer entering into a contract with state and local governments must agree to offer certain clinics that serve poor people prices that do not exceed the discounted prices specified under federal law. **Status:** Approved by Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1714 (Joe Dunn, D–Garden Grove)
Purpose: To provide civil damages to any California resident who was a victim of coerced repatriation to Mexico between 1929 and 1944. This benefit extends to any heir or beneficiary of a victim of coerced repatriation. Suit could be brought against the state of California or any local government, private party, or business which enforced the repatriation.
Status: Dead. Failed to meet the deadline for a vote in a policy committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

SJR 21 (Joe Dunn, D–Garden Grove)
Purpose: To ask Congress to establish a fact-finding commission to determine if the federal government mistreated American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Mexican descent who were deported or coerced to emigrate during the 1930s and to recommend appropriate remedies.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

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Legislative Update
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Women's Issues

AB 1813 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To provide increased penalties for people convicted of committing domestic violence in the presence of a child.
Status: Dead. Failed to meet the deadline for a vote in a policy committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1825 (Sarah Reyes, D–Fresno)
Purpose: To require larger employers to train supervisors on the subject of remedies for, and laws against, sexual harassment in the workplace.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1946 (Darrell Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To streamline and improve a process already available under California law, which allows compassionate release from jail for certain prisoners who are ill and have less than six months to live.
Status: Passed all Assembly Committees. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2010 (Loni Hancock, D–Berkeley)
Purpose: To allow Alameda and Solano Counties to increase fees, up to a maximum increase of $2, for certified copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, fetal death records, and death records, for the purposes of providing funding for governmental oversight and for the coordination of domestic violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution efforts in the county.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2018 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To provide that in a divorce case, if there is a judgment for civil damages for an act of domestic violence perpetrated by one spouse against the other spouse the court may enforce that judgment against the abusive spouse's share of community property. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2148 (Manny Diaz, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To allow a court to require parties to a child custody, visitation, and child-support proceedings to pay attorney's fees and court costs. This would allow the court to order one party to pay the other party's costs when the other party cannot afford them; would allow the court to issue a temporary order on child custody, visitation, and child support while the case is being litigated; and would allow the court to order spousal support, if the parties are married, during litigation of a domestic abuse case.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2317 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To increase the penalty for employers who pay women less for doing the same work as men.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Industrial Relations Committee for a vote on June 9.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2662 (Hannah-Beth Jackson, D–Santa Barbara)
Purpose: To require the governor and the legislature to implement the principles underlying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by addressing discrimination against women and girls, and to require the governor to evaluate state agencies and departments to ensure that the state does not discriminate against women through the allocation of funding and the delivery of services.
Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2742 (Dennis Mountjoy, R–Monrovia)
Purpose: To require that state prisons give prisoners the medical care that competent physicians say they need.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 57 (Hanna-Beth Jackson, D–Santa Barbara)
Purpose: To petition Congress to uphold the US Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade and to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration of "The March for Women's Lives." **Status:** Approved and sent to Congress. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1385 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To make numerous changes and improvements to laws concerning domestic battering. **Status:** Passed the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1441 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide that a victim of domestic violence or abuse has the right to have a domestic violence counselor and a support person of his or her choosing present at any interview by law enforcement authorities, district attorneys, or defense attorneys.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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